

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 EB-11 ACDA-19 CU-04

IO-13 OIC-04 COME-00 INT-08 RSR-01 /174 W

----- 043771

R 101118Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO ASECSTATE WASHDC 4534

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY, TS, IS

SUBJ: MINTOFF ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT ON CSCE

REF: HELSINKI 1887

1. SUMMARY: ADDRESSING PARLIAMENT JULY 9, MINTOFF GAVE BLOW-BY-BLOW DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR ALGERIAN AND TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION IN CSCE. AFTER READING TEXT OF HIS JUNE 22 PROPOSAL, HE SAID INITIAL GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM (AND CLEAR OPPOSITION OF SUPER POWERS) CHANGED BEFORE AND DURING COURSE
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OF CONFERENCE TO GROWING SUPPORT, AND USE OF ISRAEL LETTER AS

EXCUSE, PARTICULARLY BY CANADA, WAS CAUSE FOR ITS DEFEAT.

2. HE STATED THAT HE HAD TALKS WITH OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES PRIOR TO OPENING OF CONFERENCE AND SAID: "THESE SHOWED CLEARLY THAT THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED AND SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL WAS INCREASING HOURLY." HE THEN DESCRIBED ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROPOSAL. "WHEN INFORMED THAT MALTA WAS TO CHAIR THE SECOND DAY, OUR FRIENDS FROM SOUTHERN EUROPE BURST OUT LAUGHING. NOBODY EXPECTED US TO CHAIR THE DISCUSSION ON OUR OWN PROPOSAL AND AT SAME TIME MAKE OUR OWN CASE."

3. IN DESCRIBING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ISRAELI PROPOSAL FOR EQUAL TIME, MINTOFF SAID, "WHEN SOME STATES NOTED THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE FOR MALTESE PROPOSAL TO GO THROUGH, IF THEY DID NOT OPENLY OBJECT TO IT, THEY GRASPED THE OCCASION OFFERED BY THE LETTER FROM ISRAEL. IT WAS SO OBVIOUS THAT THEY WANTED TO TAKE UP THIS EXCUSE TO BLOCK THE DESIRE OF MALTA AND OF SPAIN, AND OF THE MAJORITY OF THE CONFERENCE, THAT THE DAY'S CHAIRMAN, THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER, SUSPENDED THE PLENARY SESSION HALFWAY THROUGH TO INFORM THE MINISTERS IN A CLOSED PLENARY SESSION. AT MALTA'S INITIATIVE, BACKED BY MANY STATES PRESENT, THE CHAIRMAN'S PROCEDURE WAS NOT SECONDED, AND ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY THE NEW CHAIRMAN, THE CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER, RULED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THE LETTER, WHICH WAS NOT EVEN READ OR CIRCULATED, SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN.

4. "ON FOLLOWING DAY, EFFORTS WERE CONTINUED TO REACH CONSENSUS ON MALTESE AND SPANISH PROPOSALS. FOLLOWING EXCHANGES ON PROPOSALS BY VARIOUS STATES WE WERE NEAR TO A UNANIMOUS CONSENSUS. BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE HALF-HEARTED SUPPORT OF CERTAIN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, MAINTAINED THAT IF THE RIGHT GIVEN TO TUNISIA AND ALGERIA WAS NOT ALSO GIVEN TO ISRAEL, HE WOULD BLOCK THE CONSENSUS.

5. "WE MADE VARIOUS EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT. IN A TALK I HAD WITH THE CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY I COULD SEE THAT THE ISRAELI REQUEST, WHICH WAS NOT MADE BEFORE THE CON-

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ERENCE, AND THEREFORE WITHOUT INCLUDING ALSO LIBYA, EGYPT AND SYRIA, AND WITHOUT SUSPENDING THE CONFERENCE INDEFINITELY TO AWAIT OTHER REQUESTS, WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE. I DID NOT HESITATE TO EXPRESS TO THE CANADIAN MINISTER MY SURPRISE THAT A STATE WHICH IS NOT EVEN IN EUROPE AND WHICH GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW IT MANAGED TO OBTAIN THE SAME RIGHTS AS EUROPEAN STATES, NOW HAD THE GUTS TO OBSTRUCT EFFORTS SO THAT IN THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE INSTEAD OF REPEATING, LIKE PARROTS, ALL THAT HAD BEEN DONE IN

(MPT), WE COULD AT LAST BEGIN TO HEAR VIEWS ON THE SECURITY OF EUROPE."

6. MINTOFF THEN TABLED HIS SPEECH TO THE CONFERENCE AND READ THE CSCE PHASE I COMMUNIQUE. HE CONCLUDED BY REPORTING THAT HE HAD HAD BILATERAL TALKS ON "PENDING ISSUES" WITH FINNISH, BRITISH, DANISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH DELEGATIONS, AND MENTIONED HIS STOPOVERS IN ROME AND LONDON.

7. AFTER MINTOFF'S PRESENTATION, OPPOSITION LEADER BORG OLIVIER CALLED FOR DEBATE ON MALTESE FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL AND HELSINKI CONFERENCE IN PARTICULAR. THE DEBATE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11.

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